



December 28, 2005

Mr. John Tolley, Planning Director Alaska DOT/PF PO Box 196900 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

Mr. Jeff Otteson, Deputy Commissioner Alaska DOT/PF 3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200 Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Subject: STIP Seward Highway Improvements/Girdwood to Anchorage

Dear Sirs:

I am a resident of Girdwood and like many commute to Anchorage, Daily. I was saddened to hear that the Seward Highway improvements between Anchorage and Girdwood had been removed.

All of the proposed projects have merit but none affect as many individuals as the Girdwood to Anchorage/Potter Marsh project. Not only is the segment one of the most traveled, especially in the summer but it is the most dangerous. This segment of the Seward Highway is the deadliest in the state, with a long history of horrible accidents. The road has few places to pass and many areas with limited visibility. Through its narrow turns with limited visibility we struggle with rock slides, snow, ice, high winds, animals, pedestrians, and most of all oncoming traffic; all too often passing unsafely. When accidents do occur emergency vehicle access is hampered and there are long delays in extricating victims, clearing the debris and reopening the road.

Traffic patterns between Anchorage and Girdwood will undoubtedly increase. There is significant commercial and residential development underway in Girdwood. We are on the verge of considerable growth which will increase the pressure on an already dangerous situation.

The Bird to Girdwood improvements represents a tremendous enhancement. We need to complete the project. After all, a road is only as safe as its most dangerous section. I urge you to include the Seward Highway improvements from Girdwood to Anchorage/Potter Marsh in the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Respectfully submitted.

Jeffrey G. Demain, MD, FAAP, FACAAI

Director, Allergy Asthma & Immunology Center of Alaska

Girdwood Resident